(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Air Force had participated in the following fighter exercises in the year 2005-2006.

(i) GARUDA-II with France at Istres (France).

(ii) COPE INDIA-05 with USA at Kalaikunda (India).

(iii) SINDEX-06 with Singapore at Kalaikunda (India).

(d) Expenses incurred in Exercise GARUDA-II is approximately Rs. 27 crores, whereas the expenses incurred in Exercises SINDEX-06 and COPE INDIA-05 form part of training flying.

Pilots leaving IAF

2610. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force pilots want to leave the Government job of the Air Force;

(b) if so, the number of such pilots and other designations, if any;

(c) the main reasons which are forcing the pilots to resign and how Government are not meeting their requirements;

(d) how leaving of these pilots shall have an adverse effect on the working of Indian Air Force; and

(e) how Government shall meet the shortage of pilots?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The requests for acceptance of premature retirements/ resignation from the pilots are considered as per the government instructions. The majority of pilots released from service had completed their useful tenure as pilots. Thus their exits do not affect the operational status of the squadrons.

The improvement in the job profile of the IAF pilots is a continuous process keeping in view the job specific requirements and operational necessity. The vacancies in the forces including those arising due to premature retirement/resignation are filled up as per normal procedure.

Opening of Chandmari Balaji Temple Road

†2611. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the path to Chandmari Balaji Temple situated on the bank of river Chambal in Kota city passes through military cantonment;

(b) whether this path has been closed by the Army; and

(c) if so, by when the said path will be opened up keeping in view the inconvenience being caused to public?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The path passes through Defence area.

(b) It has been closed for civil traffic.

(c) There is no plan to open the path for civil traffic in view of security considerations.

Undertrail prisoners in Jails

†2612. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that even today undertrial prisoners are languishing in various prisons for decades for committing ordinary offences;

(b) whether Government would prepare the prison-wise details of such prisoners who are awaiting court verdict in the prison for ten years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the court verdict in the much discussed Jessica Lal murder case, has emphasized the need to make proper amendment in the existing law;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of the efforts being made by Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.